

These comments are submitted re: the no-code provisions for the Amateur Radio Service.

I am strongly in favor of eliminating the code requirements for Amateur licenses of all classes because the change will encourage people to participate in amateur radio activities and acquire skills in critical communication technologies. As the US tries to compete in the world economy more and more activities are sent offshore. The countries that benefit are not just lower cost but have highly skilled workers. Amateur radio is a powerful way for our citizens to get hands-on experience in communications technologies and critical skills they need for technical and engineering roles in the US.

As a teen (in the 1960's) I learned a lot about electronics through my hobby. That learning persisted and formed a base for me to learn computer hardware and software as technologies progressed. I am still working in the computer field but would not have been in it were it not for the skills my hobby taught me. As an aside, I did not pursue amateur licensing because of the code requirements. Instead, I became an FCC 1<sup>st</sup> class broadcast technician for a good number of years.

In summary, let's make technologies and learning opportunities more accessible for our citizens so they can learn what they need to innovate and compete in the world economy.

Not related to my main topic is the continued importance of amateur radio as a means to help people in catastrophies. It seems that really serious events are becoming more common and the need for skilled communicators is increasing. Let's open the doors to amateur radio to a new generation of now computer-aware participants who can take over the roles of hams in helping in disasters.